

Message Text

PAGE 01 TOKYO 12682 020619Z

21 11
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W
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R 020540Z OCT 73
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7152
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

S E C R E T TOKYO 12682

EXDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO: 11652 - GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, KS, JA.
SUBJECT: KIM TAE CHUNG CASE

REF: A. SEOUL 6493 B. TOKYO 12278

1. AMB HABIB'S RECENT REPORT (REF A) JIBES WITH IM-
PRESSIONS GAINED FROM CONVERSATIONS HERE OVER PAST TEN
DAYS THAT HIGHEST LEVELS OF GOJ HAVE SHIFTED GEARS IN
THEIR APPROACH TO KIM CASE. SENIOR POLITICIANS FIRST
TOOK DAY-TO-DAY DIRECTION OF CASE AWAY FROM FONOFF (WE
HAVE IMPRESSION VICE MIN HOGEN MAY NOW BE ONLY FONOFF
OFFICIAL FULLY INFORMED ON STATE OF PLAY) AND ASSIGNED
KEY ROLE TO SPECIAL ENVOY KANAYAMA. WHEN HIS INITIAL
EFFORTS FAILED TO PRODUCE SOLUTION, TANAKA AND OHIRA
WERE OBLIGED BY THEIR DEPARTURE FOR EUROPE TO SUSPEND
NEGOTIATIONS FOR TIME BEING. THEIR DECISION WAS
FACILITATED BY TWO DEVELOPMENTS: DIET ADJOURNED IN LATE
SEPTEMBER, THEREBY REMOVING FOR TIME BEING ONE OF MOST IN-
SISTENT PRODS TO GOVERNMENT ACTION; SITUATION IN UNGA IN-
DICATED KOREAN QUESTION WOULD NOT COME TO HEAD UNTIL NOVEMBER
AT EARLIEST.

2. HOWEVER GOJ STILL HAS IRONS IN FIRE FOR USE WHEN
SECRET

PAGE 02 TOKYO 12682 020619Z

TANAKA AND OHIRA RETURN IN MID-OCTOBER. JAPANESE SUPPORT MAY
BECOME INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT AS KOREAN QUESTION MOVES TOWARD
RESOLUTION IN UNGA. DIET WILL PROBABLY BE CALLED INTO
EXTRAORDINARY ESSION BY LATE OCTOBER AND SOME DEGREE OF

OPPOSTION CRITICISM WILL RESUME. FINALLY, GOJ'S DE FACTO
SUSPENSION OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE (REF B PARA 5) MAY BEGIN TO
BE FELT IN SEOUL. IT MAY WEL BE THAT GOJ IS COUNTING ON
THIS CONVERGENCE OF FACTORS TO URGE CURRENT GOJ-ROK IMPASSE
TOWARD SOLUTION OF KIM CASE WITHIN COMING MONTH.
INGERSOLL

SECRET

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